

American, as they are in mine. I recall the disbelief, the shock and the horror we felt as we saw our Nation rocked to its core and saw thousands of innocent Americans lose their lives in New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington in acts of deliberate and horrific violence. It was an assault, the likes of which had never before been carried out on our homeland.

Yet, in the face of overwhelming tragedy, we witnessed the enduring resilience and unwavering determination of the American spirit as our public safety personnel thrust themselves into unimaginable danger to save the victims. Indeed, our public safety personnel, overcoming fear, in a moment that embodied their sense of service and professionalism, rose to meet a challenge that none before them had ever faced. And on that day, some of our brave firefighters, first responders and police, made the ultimate sacrifice as they gave their lives in the fulfillment of their duty to protect the communities they served.

In this poignant display of their bravery, their courage and their resolve, we are reminded that our public safety personnel willingly and fearlessly put their lives on the line every day to ensure our wellbeing.

The men and women of the West Bloomfield Fire Department in Oakland County, Michigan carry within themselves these same virtues. The 86 employees that comprise the department have made protecting the residents of West Bloomfield and its surrounding communities their professional responsibility. It is a tribute to the dedication and professionalism of the West Bloomfield Fire Department that it is being honored with a piece of steel from the World Trade Center. I know this dedication ceremony will serve as a constant reminder to the communities served by the first responders of West Bloomfield's Fire Department that their vigilance and sacrifice make our lives safer every day. I commend and recognize the families and individuals who have made this dedication possible.

Mr. Speaker, the service and sacrifice of our public safety personnel make them true American heroes. On the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001, I rise with my colleagues and stand with my constituents in honoring the commitment and sacrifice made by our family, friends and neighbors who hear the call to serve the public as police, firefighters and first responders—they are truly emblematic of the great strength of our Nation.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 12, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,711,737,198,477.91.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$4,073,311,452,184.11 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

ON RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF THE BIRMINGHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

#### HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 12, 2011*

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor public safety workers across Michigan's Ninth Congressional District, the State of Michigan and our Nation as we remember the tragedy that befell our country 10 years ago on September 11, 2001.

The brutal attacks of September 11, 2001 are no doubt etched into the minds of every American, as they are in mine. I recall the disbelief, the shock and the horror we felt as we saw our Nation rocked to its core and saw thousands of innocent Americans lose their lives in New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington in acts of deliberate and horrific violence. It was an assault, the likes of which had never before been carried out on our homeland.

Yet, in the face of overwhelming tragedy, we witnessed the enduring resilience and unwavering determination of the American spirit as our public safety personnel thrust themselves into unimaginable danger to save the victims. Indeed, our public safety personnel, overcoming fear, in a moment that embodied their sense of service and professionalism, rose to meet a challenge that none before them had ever faced. And on that day, some of our brave firefighters, first responders and police, made the ultimate sacrifice as they gave their lives in the fulfillment of their duty to protect the communities they served.

In this poignant display of their bravery, their courage and their resolve, we are reminded that our public safety personnel willingly and fearlessly put their lives on the line every day to ensure our wellbeing.

As is the case with their brothers and sisters across the Nation, these virtues are embodied by the first responders of the Birmingham Fire Department in Oakland County, Michigan. Last year they responded to over two thousand emergencies ranging from fires to motor vehicle accidents and hazardous material spills. With 32 employees, the department has worked vigilantly on daily basis to ensure the safety of Birmingham residents. And in honor to their service, I know the steel from the World Trade Center which is being presented to the department, will remind us all of the unwavering commitment they have made to our community. I commend and recognize the families and individuals who have worked hard to make this dedication possible.

Mr. Speaker, the service and sacrifice of our public safety personnel make them true American heroes. On the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001, I rise with my colleagues and stand with my constituents in honoring the commitment and sacrifice made by our family, friends and neighbors who hear the call to serve the public as police, firefighters and first responders—they are truly emblematic of the great strength of our Nation.

HORSESHOE RIVERBEND FESTIVAL

#### HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 12, 2011*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, every second weekend in September, Wayne County's population doubles as citizens and visitors alike attend the Horseshoe Riverbend Festival. Located on the banks of the Tennessee River in historic Clifton, Tennessee, this three day Festival celebrates the musical heritage championed in this great state.

Sponsored by the Clifton Rotary Club, the Horseshoe Riverbend Festival brings not just music, memories, and fireworks for those in attendance. More than those, the three day event raises support for charitable needs both at home and abroad. Gathering musicians with crafters and families with friends, the Horseshoe Riverbend Festival celebrates the great traditions of Tennessee.

I congratulate all those whose hard work and dedication to the City of Clifton have brought another year of success for the Festival. Tied together with the love of music and community, I ask my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the music, the local artisans, and the 29 years of service that comes from the Horseshoe Riverbend Festival.

ON THE OCCASION OF DEDICATING OAKLAND COUNTY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S NEW "GREEN" TERMINAL

#### HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 12, 2011*

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the leaders of Oakland County on the completion of Oakland County International Airport's new "green" terminal. This impressive accomplishment will undoubtedly enhance the service the airport provides to residents and businesses across Southeast Michigan. As a believer in the idea that economic development can be environmentally balanced, I am pleased to have advocated for national support of this project, which received federal resources to make this new terminal a reality.

Following its construction in 1928, the Oakland County International Airport, OCIA, has been a symbol of the forward-thinking economic vision and entrepreneurial spirit upon which the county was founded. In 1930, as a first-in-the-nation event, the OCIA was certified with an A-1-A rating from the U.S. government and has since been an important component of the local economy.

Today, the OCIA continues to play a significant role in the ongoing development of Southeast Michigan's economy. On an annual basis, the airport generates over \$150 million in revenue which supports the operations of Oakland County and the broader region. In 2010 alone, the airport served over a half a million passengers and pilots. With almost 120,000 departures and landings annually, the OCIA was the nation's twelfth busiest general aviation facility in 2010.

In keeping with its status as a symbol of Oakland County's economic progress and forward-thinking vision, the new terminal for the